Alumni Hall becomes Dahlberg Hall
Building named in honor of alumnus and former
Southern Company president, Bill Dahlberg

By Elizabeth Klipp • eklipp@gsu.edu

On Sept. 17, Georgia State dedicated Alumni Hall to one of the university’s most successful and generous alumni, A.W. “Bill” Dahlberg. Dahlberg, who earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Georgia State in 1970, is the retired chairman and chief executive officer of Southern Company, the largest generator of electricity in the nation.

The Alumni Hall dedication was based on Dahlberg’s long-standing support of Georgia State, for both academics and athletics. Dahlberg chaired Georgia State’s first capital campaign, which focused on creating the Rialto Center for the Arts and building the Aderhold Learning Center.

“As we look towards our second century, we are deeply grateful for the support of great alums like Bill Dahlberg,” President Mark P. Becker said. “His long-standing support has helped Georgia State University become what it is today. We are honored to recognize him with the naming of Dahlberg Hall.”

A native Georgian, Dahlberg started his career in 1960 as a meter installer at Georgia Power and held several positions, including customer accounting and corporate finance, before being named vice presidents of financial services.

Later, Dahlberg moved to Southern Company Services as senior vice president with responsibility for marketing, rates and governmental affairs. He became president and CEO of Southern Company Services in 1985 and returned to Georgia Power three years later as president and CEO. He became president of Southern Company in 1994 and chairman and CEO in March 1995. Dahlberg retired from Southern Company in 2001 and became chairman of Mirant Corp., an independent international energy company. He retired for a second time in 2005.

Georgia Health Policy Center turns 15

The Georgia Health Policy Center of the Andrew Young School will reach a milestone this fall — its 15th anniversary. As part of the commemoration, GHPC plans to provide strategic consultations regarding the potential impact of health care reform to 15 Georgia stakeholder groups. The organizations involved include providers, rural and urban community-based groups, small and large businesses, professional associations, and local and state government entities.

“For our anniversary, we wanted to give back to the community and our stakeholders,” said Karen Minyard, executive director of GHPC. “Using our knowledge and skills to aid others in the development of a national model for community planning. The latest project provided vital information and exceptional insight regarding health reform’s implications.”

Others included in the project are Georgia Division of Aging Services, Effingham Hospital, Georgia Pharmacy Association, Richmond County Board of Health, and Troup Cares, a free clinic.

To receive an invitation to the symposium, please e-mail ghpc@gsu.edu. For more information on the project, please visit http://aysps.gsu.edu/ghpc/3748.html.

What are your goals for opera at GSU?
I believe that Georgia State can be a center in the Southeast for producing the best operatic talent. It’s going to take work, it’s going to take collaboration with arts companies and it’s going to take money. But I feel confident, based on my experience, that we can do it.

What are some highlights of your singing career?
I began performing professionally as a child, soloing with Leonard Bernstein and the New York Philharmonic. I was on “The Bell Telephone Hour” on NBC-TV and the series, “Look Up and Live,” a CBS-TV series. As early as 13, I did opera, like “Ariadne and the Night Visitors,” with the original cast and “The Magic Flute” with Beverly Sills. When I was 19, I did “The King and I” with Roberta Peters at Wolf Trap outside D.C. At 30, I debuted at the New York City Opera as Alfredo in “La traviata.” I’ve sung all over the world and performed with many different opera houses.

Where have you directed?
I’ve been the artistic director of the Mississippi Opera and the co-director of the Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Program, to name a few. I’ve stage-directed for the Nashville Opera, the Cleveland Institute of Music, the Lyric Opera of Dallas, and many others. Most recently, I was the director of opera at the University of Tennessee School of Music and artistic director of the Knoxville Opera Studio. And I’m very excited to have been named the “2010 Stage Director of the Year” by Classical Singer magazine.

How will you approach producing ‘Madama Butterfly’ this spring?
It’s a stretch to do a production of this size with younger artists. But that’s my job — to stretch my students. We have to prepare them and coach them for the roles. The talent is here — I’m convinced of it.
Human Resources to issue revised employee handbook

By Human Resources Administration • gsuhr@gsu.edu

Staff Recruitment and Retention is excited about the many activities coming this fall. Be on the lookout for the newly revised Employee Handbook. It has been updated to include new information on ADP recommendations on how to appropriately use university-issued electronics, including computers and handheld devices.

The Employee Handbook is a resourceful tool for both managers and employees and is a guide to employment at Georgia State.

Also, the holidays are just around the corner and many employees will take vacation time, leaving behind duties that still need to be performed in their absence. PantherTemps is a great and cost-efficient way to fill this temporary gap. PantherTemps can handle all the work for you. From finding the right person to fill the positions, to processing the paperwork to get the employee in the system. For a PantherTemp, or to learn more about our services, contact Jacqueline Morris at 404-413-3277.

In observance of National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Employee Development and Wellness Services has several co-sponsored programs, workshops and educational events scheduled during October in partnership with the GSU Campus Wellness Committee.

There will be two special Wellness Wednesdays Lunch ’N Learn seminars at noon on Oct. 6 and Oct. 13. At noon on Oct. 7, as part of the First Thursdays Health Screenings, there will be a special Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch ’N Learn seminar presented by the Atlanta chapter of Susan G. Komen for the Cure. Please call 404-413-3342 to register and obtain additional information.

In addition, Organizational Development and Consulting Services has many exciting programs coming up this fall. For more information on the programs and other HR activities and services, please visit the GSU HR website, www.gsu.edu/hr.

Researchers to investigate oil-eating bacteria in the Gulf

By Jeremy Craig • jcraig@gsu.edu

Georgia State University researchers will head to Louisiana this fall to see if clay minerals can be used to aid microbes to better break down oil in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The research in the oil marshes is sponsored by a one-year $61,537 Rapid Research Response (RAPP) grant from the National Science Foundation.

The research team includes Daniel Decampado, W.C. Crawford Elliott, Larry Kage, Erik Krogstad and Seth Rose of the Department of Geosciences; Kuki Chin of the Department of Biology; and Gary Hastings of the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

“Any time we can shave off the timeline for ecological restoration of the Gulf coast will have tangible economic and ecological impacts,” said Daniel Decampado, assistant professor of geosciences.

Georgia State researchers will select three experimental plots in the marshes. They will then spray the clay minerals, which occur naturally over the plots. Chunks of sediment and seawater will be brought back to the GSU lab in Atlanta for further analysis.

The microbes that exist in the marshes have evolved over time to be able to ingest oil as oil naturally seeps out of sediments in the Gulf of Mexico — albeit in significantly smaller amounts than the recent oil spill, said Kuki Chin, assistant professor of microbiology.

What scientists don’t know is the exact mechanism that encourages microbes to consume petroleum hydrocarbons, Decampado said. In the lab, the application of clay minerals, particularly one called calcium montmorillonite, seems to encourage aerobic bacteria to consume more hydrocarbons.

Decampado said that the team will hopefully have preliminary data by spring 2011 — a quick turnaround for research.
GSU to participate in Atlanta Streets Alive

Georgia State University will participate in Atlanta Streets Alive, the closure of a city street on Oct. 17 to provide a festival-like day to encourage pedestrians and bicyclists to participate in community activities in downtown Atlanta.

The event, sponsored by the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, will close Edgewood Avenue to motorized traffic for walking, running and bicycle riding. Georgia State participation includes music from a jazz band, activities at the university’s sculpture studio, health screenings, bike Sharing and recreation classes.

GSU Bike, an initiative led by the Institute of Public Health with the cooperation of the Department of Sociology and the sculpture department of the Ernest G. Welch School of Art and Design, has worked to encourage cycling on campus with various activities over the past academic year.

For more information about the event, visit www.atlantastreetsalive.com.

College of Education’s annual Maya Lecture features Ela Gandhi

Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi and a peace activist in South Africa, will speak at the College of Education’s 22nd annual Benjamin E. Mays Lecture at 7 p.m. Oct. 7 in the Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium.

Gandhi will discuss building a better global society through education at this free event, which is open to the public. Born in 1940, Gandhi has been empowering and educating communities in South Africa for decades. She was elected the vice president of the Natal Indian Congress in the 1970s and served as a Member of Parliament in South Africa from 1994-2004.

The annual Benjamin E. Mays Memorial Lecture Series brings nationally prominent educators to Atlanta. Each lecture is intended to encourage discussion of issues facing urban educational leaders. This program not only honors the memory of Benjamin E. Mays, but also promotes his philosophy of excellence in the education of those typically least well served by the larger society.

For more information on the lecture, please call Angela Turk, public relations coordinator in the College of Education, at 404-413-8114 or emturk@gsu.edu.

GSU Benefits and Employee Information Fair on Oct. 29

Georgia State’s Benefits and Employee Information Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 29 in the Student Center Ballroom. The event, which features information booths from university offices and outside vendors, is open to GSU faculty and staff.

Each fall, Georgia State’s Staff Council and the Department of Human Resources work together to organize the fair. For more information, please contact Kimberly Moore, administrative coordinator in the College of Education, at 404-413-8256 or kmoore@gsu.edu.

Haverty Lecture to be held Oct. 21

Richard J. Gelles, dean of the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania, will speak at the 2010 J. Rhodes Haverty Lecture of the College of Health and Human Sciences at 7 p.m. Oct. 21 in the Student Center Speaker’s Auditorium.

Gelles, an expert on family violence, has authored or co-authored 24 books and more than 100 articles and chapters on the subject, including the second edition of the recent “Current Controversies on Family Violence.”

He serves as director of the Center for Research on Youth and Social Policy and co-director of the Field Center for Children’s Policy, Practice, and Research at the University of Pennsylvania. The Haverty Lecture was established in 2003 to honor the career of J. Rhodes Haverty, the founding dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences.

College of Law to hold Miller Lecture Oct. 21

Mark Tushnet of Harvard Law School will deliver the College of Law’s 47th Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture at noon on Oct. 21 in the Student University Center State Ballroom.

Tushnet, who is the William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Law, will discuss “The Hughes Court’s treatment of radical dissent: The case of Angelo Herndon.” Among Tushnet’s scholarship is work on the development of civil rights law and history of the United States Supreme Court during the 1930s.
Technology program piloted in FLCs

By Elizabeth Kipp • skipp@gsu.edu

Georgia State University launched a pilot program this fall that integrates the latest technology — Apple iPads and Flip Video Camcorders — in 17 of the university’s Freshmen Learning Communities (FLCs).

Both the iPad and Flip cameras are personal, mobile devices that these 400 students can take with them wherever they go, allowing them to take advantage of learning opportunities in and out of the classroom.

“Our goal with the project is to find new and innovative ways to improve the learning experience for our first-year students,” said Julian Allen, director of professional services in the Division of Information Systems and Technology (IS&T). “Using these devices, students can create a record of their learning and share their experiences with others.”

IS&T worked with the university administration and Enrollment Services to secure funding for the purchase of the Flip cameras, iPads and applications. IS&T is also providing instructional design and technical staffing to assist faculty and students in enhancing the student learning experience, Allen said.

Students will be using applications on the iPad to develop skills in organization, time management, note taking, grammar and making presentations. The Flip cameras will give students a means to create video journals or chronicle their experiences around Georgia State.

“I think this is an exciting world of possibilities in their education,” said Naja Haydel, academic professional for freshmen learning. “It pushes professors to be innovative and allows students to express themselves.” Students will be required to return the iPads and Flip cameras at the end of the semester.

This fall, Georgia State has about 1,470 first-year students enrolled in 63 Freshmen Learning Communities, a program that began in 1999 with 11 communities. FLCs are groups of five to 125 first-year students taking five core courses based on a theme.

After-School All-Stars Atlanta has received a renewal of a $700,000 grant for the fiscal year, starting Oct. 1, from the Georgia Department of Human Services.

James Amann, senior project manager in IS&T, received dual bachelor’s degrees in computer information systems and managerial sciences from Georgia State.

Julie Auncs, professor of counseling and psychological services, received the Woman of the Year Award from the American Psychological Association’s Society of Counseling Psychology (Division 17) Section on the Advancement of Women for scholarship and contributions. The award was presented at APNS annual conference.

APPLAUSE

Hassan Babaie, associate professor of geosciences, was elected to fellow of the Geological Society of America this summer.

Jan Baker, assistant professor of saxophone, traveled to Odessa, Ukraine, this summer, where she performed and recorded the world premiere of “Scream, Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Orchestra” by Ashot Atalai with the National Symphony of Odessa.

Raheem Beyah, associate professor of computer science, and Yinghu Li, assistant professor of computer science, recently received a one-year National Science Foundation grant to study the feasibility of self-protection of heterogeneous wireless sensor networks.

The Office of Public Health and Science of the Department of Health and Human Services has solicited Lawrence Bryant, assistant professor in the Division of Respiratory Therapy, to review grants for this year’s State Partnership Grant Program to Improve Minority Health Grant Review. These grants are titled “Minority Community HIV/AIDS Partnership: Preventing Risky Behaviors Among Minority College Students.”

Marva Griffin Carter, associate professor of music history and literature/world music, was the guest of President Laurent K. Gbagbo and First Lady Simone Gbagbo of Côte d’Ivoire, West Africa, for the 50th anniversary of the country’s independence from France.

Naveen Donthu, the Katherine S. Bernhardt Research Professor of Marketing, has been named chair of the Department of Marketing.

Irene Duhaime, associate dean for administration and a professor in the Department of Managerial Sciences, was named fellow of the Strategic Management Society. She is one of only 53 to be accorded the honor.

William Edmundson, professor of law and philosophy, has been named Regents’ Professor. He is one of only 30 at GSU to receive the recognition and the first in the College of Law.

Patrick K. Feer, associate professor of music education, has been named academic editor and chair of the editorial board for Music Educators Journal.

Daphne Greenberg, associate professor of educational psychology and special education, participated in a National Institute for Literacy webinar panel of adult literacy research experts on Sept. 1 titled “Gaining reading results in the classroom: What research tells us.”

Christopher Ingalls, associate professor of biomechanics and health, was invited to present his research on “Exercise-Induced Muscle Injury” at the 6th World Congress of Biomechanics on Aug. 2 in Singapore.

Susan Kelley, dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences, was presented with the 2010 Alumni Award for Professional Excellence from the Boston College Alumni Association in October.

Kenneth A. Long, assistant professor of music, performed his 7th season as artistic director with the Utah Festival Opera, this summer in performances of Verdi’s “La traviata,” Rossini’s “Barber of Seville,” and Verdi’s “Requiem.”

Yi Pan, chair of the Department of Computer Science, recently received a 2010 IBM Faculty Award.

Regents’ Professor MaryAnn Romski was named a fellow of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) at its 14th Biennial meeting in Barcelona, Spain.

The College of Education’s Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic celebrated its 35th anniversary in September. The clinic provides evaluations, screenings and therapy sessions to clients in the Georgia State community and metro Atlanta area.

Naven Valet, associate professor of economics with the International Studies Program, is in Bulgaria for the next year to study the country’s political economy and its implications for adapting the euro in a research project funded by the National Council for East European and Eurasian Research of the U.S. Department of State.

Sally Wallace, professor of economics, has been named chair of the Department of Economics.

Naima Wong, research associate, and Holly Avey, senior research associate in the Georgia State community and metro Atlanta area.

Students in a handful of GSU’s Freshmen Learning Communities are being issued Apple iPads this semester.